

### REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, a request for authorization to amend Fig. 4 of the drawings is being forwarded herewith. Specifically, reference numeral "1" has been changed to --1'-- to bring that drawing into conformance with the Specification. Also, Fig. 1 was objected to for failing to include reference numeral "5" as mentioned on Page 4 of the Specification. In this regard, that reference numeral has now been deleted from Page 4 by means of the foregoing amendment.

As requested by the Examiner, the title has also been amended.

Claim 12 was rejected as being grammatically incorrect. In response, the wording of Claim 12 has been amended and is now believed to be in good form

Finally, all of the claims were rejected as being anticipated by the prior art, wherein the Examiner relied on each of the disclosures of the cited Langdon, Brosnan, Pace, Wagner, and Miyagawa patents as anticipating the sole independent claim, Claim 1. By this response, however, Claim 1 has been amended and is now believed to be patentably distinct over those references.

Applicants stress their belief that Claim 1 is allowable over the references because it requires reference light which is unrelated to the image light from an object. That is, Applicants' understanding of each of the rejecting references is that they do not contemplate using a light emitting element separate from the illuminating light. Instead, they use the object illuminating light as a reference light. For example, in Pace, the reference light from the oscillator 7, is stated (Col. 3, lines 29-31) to be "a plane wave of optical radiation from the transmitter".

For all of these various reasons, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are allowable and a formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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VERSION MARKED TO SHOW CHANGES TO CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An image pickup apparatus comprising:  
  
an image pickup unit having an array of a plurality of photodetection elements;  
  
a light-emitting element unit for emitting reference light having a predetermined frequency difference with respect to a frequency of light [incident on said image pickup unit] comprising an optical image of an object, wherein said reference light is unrelated to said image light; and  
  
a wave synthesizer for synthesizing [the] incident light from said optical image and the reference light from said light-emitting element unit, and for guiding the synthesized light to said image pickup unit.
12. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus includes a plurality of more than two of said image pickup units [are used with being combined with each other] for use in obtaining a combined image.